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Sandy's Own CSI:

Through a grant obtained several years ago, the Sandy Police Department was able to develop a crime lab to process evidence recovered from a crime scene. Sandy City's crime lab is located in City Hall and is one of only two labs in Utah. The Crime Scene Unit is made up of 16 Sandy City officers who are trained in processing evidence in the field as well as the crime lab. Two dedicated crime lab technicians work approximately 180-360 cases per month.



Sandy City's Crime Lab

Evidence processed in the lab includes ballistics, blood spatter, drug identification, DNA data, fingerprints and surveillance videos. Each fingerprint obtained at a scene takes two to four hours of work in the lab. The fingerprint is run through the AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System) database and can produce candidates that are then compared side-by-side on a computer. Another piece of equipment used in the lab is an ION scanner. The scanner can detect trace amounts of drugs on an object and can be used to charge a suspect with possession of an illegal substance.

Before the crime lab was in place, evidence that was obtained from the field was shipped to a state crime lab and took an average of 60-120 days to process. With officers cross-trained in obtaining evidence and photos of a crime scene, the time to process information has been significantly reduced. Turn-around time can vary but on average it is usually about a week. This aids police in acting quickly in an investigation or arrest.

Police are asking for your help...



It takes a thief 7 seconds to access the inside of a car and approximately 90 seconds to complete a burglary. During this demonstration, it took only 10 seconds to access this car with a purse and cell phone visible.

Don't Become a Victim

Police departments all over the valley are seeing an unusually high increase in vehicle burglaries over the past several months. Sergeant Justin Chapman states, "We typically see a rise during the holiday season but the increase so far this year is approximately 40 percent higher than usual, and we need the public's help in keeping these numbers down." It takes a thief seven seconds to access the inside of a car and approximately 90 seconds to complete a burglary.

Vehicle burglary is preventable through two simple steps.

- 1) Lock and secure your vehicle or property. The first step for a burglar is easy access through an open door or window.
- 2) Conceal or remove your valuables. If there is nothing to steal, the thief will move on. The most popular items include: purses, cell phones, PDAs, laptops, iPods, money, CDs, stereo equipment, packages and clothing. Thieves are looking for a quick way to make cash. Small, valuable items that are easy to carry and to conceal make the best targets.

If you see suspicious activity, please call dispatch at 840-4000 or 9-1-1.

Spend Time Making a Difference:

If you are looking for ways to volunteer, please consider:

- Youth Court Mentor
- Adult Youth Court Advisor
- Victim Advocates Program
- Volunteer in Police Service (VIPS)
- Neighborhood Watch

A full list of programs and services are available on the website at www.sandy.utah.gov or please contact the Police Department by calling 568-7200.



Officer Jason Petty from the Youth Unit talks with Sandy residents during the 2008 Night Out Against Crime.

Revised Animal Control Ordinance and Fees Adopted in Sandy

An escalation in dog attacks in Sandy has prompted a revision of the animal ordinance to place tighter restrictions on dogs that have been determined dangerous. The Dangerous Dog Ordinance was adopted by the City Council placing greater responsibilities on dog owners. A dangerous dog is described as any animal being aggressive in nature, training or characteristics and presents a risk of serious harm to persons or property.

If a dog is found to be dangerous under the new ordinance, the owner will be required to comply with several rules that include but are not limited to the animal being:

- Spayed or neutered
- Micro-chipped
- Muzzled or confined
- Marked with ID
- Confined in a fenced area

All of these provisions will be at the owner's expense. If an animal is found to be dangerous, the owner may be fined \$500 for the first offense.

The intent of the ordinance is to encourage pet owners to take responsibility and train pets to be better neighbors to avoid harm or injury to others. If you have any questions concerning the revised ordinance, please contact Sandy Animal Services at 352-4450 or download the ordinance and fees online at www.sandy.utah.gov under the Animal Services section.



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Hors d'oeuvres & Dancing

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